

MAKING WORLDS: An OWS Forum on the Commons

February 16-18
Church of the Ascension,
122 Java St. (Greenpoint)

Making Worlds is a space in which everyone can contribute to thinking and doing collectively. This will not be an "academic" event, nor an "activist" one. We believe that you don't need to belong to any particular group, or have any particular expertise in order to be entitled to participate in politics. Politics is also part of the Commons, something that should belong to everyone.

Why a Forum on the Commons?

The Occupy movement is entering a new phase, one in which many of us feel the need to combine renewed engagement through direct actions and mobilizations with a deep reflection on the strategic objectives of our movement. In order to fulfill this need, *Making Worlds* is a space within OWS where anyone, including Occupy supporters, sympathizers, and other organizations are welcome to share their ideas and knowledge on how the different ways in which a politics of the commons can be developed. In particular, we are interested in understanding how groups and communities working on housing, health care, education, food, water, energy, information, and communication and knowledge resources can develop a vision of these resources as commons: a third form of social organization to the state and corporate capitalism. *Making Worlds* has the ambitious goal of articulating a strategic vision from and for the movement as well as specific political initiatives aiming at its realization.

Structure of the Forum

There are no "speakers" or "audience" in *Making Worlds*. This is an encounter between participants. Six thematic sessions will be held during the Forum. Each one will be introduced by short presentations by persons working on these areas from different perspectives. Then a conversation will be opened to all the participants.

We have agreed on the following guidelines for the sessions:

- Combine theory and practice: thinking is a way of doing, as much as doing is a way of thinking
- Set a tone of horizontality and respect.
- Each participating organization or group will give a brief presentation/introduction (7-10 minute maximum).
- Discussion, questions, conversation.
- How to keep / start building a commons in this area?
- Production of a document. Possible formats: transcriptions, interventions, interviews, synthesis of discussions...

Location

122 Java Street Greenpoint, Brooklyn (Church of the Ascension)

The Church of the Ascension property runs the width of the block with the church entrance on Kent Street and its parish hall on Java Street. We will occupy both facilities but use 122 Java Street as our primary entrance.

- By Subway: Take the G Train to Greenpoint Avenue Station. The Forum is one block from the station.
- By Ferry: India Street / Greenpoint -
- By Auto: Street parking is difficult.

Food kindly provided by our friends from People's Kitchen OWS

More information:

<http://makingworlds.wikispaces.com/>

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, February 16

- 5pm** WELCOME: Sign-In, Food
OPENING:
Introductory words / Making Worlds Organizers
- 6-6:45pm** Introduction to the Commons / Silvia Federici and Dawn Diaz - Women Against Domestic Violence
- 6:45-7:15pm** Dinner
George Caffentzis.
James Quilligan - Global Commons Trust
- 7:15-9pm** Christopher Rude - Union for Radical Political Economics
Alicia Godsberg - OWS Antiwar WG and Peace Action

FRIDAY, February 17

- 5pm** WELCOME: Sign-In, Food.
SESSION 1: ENVIRONMENT
- Reclaiming the Commons. (Alexa Bradley)
- Water struggle in Bolivia. (Marcela Olivera)
- 6-7:30pm** - Beyond Oil NYC. (Dan Miner).
- Occupy Food: Seeds. (Alec Higgins)
- Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development Update. (Sara Burke)
- Ecosocialist Horizons (Quincy Saul)
- 7:30-8:15pm** Update on Global Commons with David Bollier
Dinner
- 8:15-** **SESSION 2: ARTS, CULTURE AND**

9:45pm EDUCATION

- Art and the Commons: Beyond the Tangible. (Maria Byck, Antonio Serna)
- OWS Artists)
- Commons Support (Tom Nielsen)
- Occupy University.
- From Copyright to Copyleft: Commons for arts and sciences. (Marcos Wasem)
- Occupy Student Debt Campaign. (George Caffentzis, Robert Oxford and Chris Casuccio)

SATURDAY, February 18

- 9-10am** WELCOME: Sign-In, Breakfast
SESSION 3: GENDER/CARE/HEALTH
- Feminist/Queer/Postcolonial commons. (Miriam Tola).
- Challenging Male Supremacy Project. (RJ Maccani).
- Child Raising as a Form of Resistance that builds radical communities and relationships. (Ileana Méndez-Peñate).
- Reclaiming and Reorganizing Birth, Breastfeeding, Babycare for the Commons. (Ina Bransome & Haya Brant)

10AM-11:45pm - OWS Health Action. (Babak Karimi).

11:45-12pm Break (15 min)

12-1:45pm **SESSION 4: ECONOMY - Economics of the Commons**
- Public Goods, Externalities. Market definitions of the Commons. (John McGloin)
- Solidarity Economics. (Caroline

- Woolard-Solidarity NYC)
- An Introduction to the Commons. (James Quilligan, Nancy Roof)
- The Anti-commons of the Commodity. (Chris Rude, URPE)

1:45-2:45 LUNCH

SESSION 5:

ECONOMY - Money and Banking

- Alternative Banking and Alternative Economies, (Jim Costanzo).
2:45PM-4:30pm - OWS Strategies on Alternative Economies. (Evan Wagner).
- Questions and answers about money, banking and finance. (Chris Rude and Sara Burke - URPE)

- 4:30-4:45pm** Break (15 min)

SESSION 6: NURTURING THE COMMONS - OLD & NEW

- Moderator: David Bollier
- Creating New Commons with City Top Level Domains. (Tom Lowenhaupt)
4:45-6:30pm - Network. (Ron Suarez)
- Immigrant, Resident Voting Rights. (David Andersson)
- Occupy-Commons strategy workshop. (George Pór, Mary Beth Steisslinger, Tina Bakolitsa, Mark Jagdev)

- 6:30-7:15pm** Dinner.

- 6:45-9:30pm** **FINAL SESSION: ASSEMBLY**